BACON AND THOMAS

Serial Number: 09/805,234

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A floor covering panel comprising a top side, at least two opposite edges including coupling elements made in one piece with the panel and arranged so that several ones of such panels can be mutually coupled to form a floor covering coupling, said coupling elements arranged to enable an interlocking of the coupling elements between panels in a direction perpendicular to a plane including the panels, as well as in a direction perpendicular to the respective edges and parallel to the plane including the panels, and wherein these coupling elements are configured so that the panels can be rotated into or out of one another at least along said opposite edges, and wherein said panel is a laminated construction including at least an MDF/HDF core layer and a panel decorative layer above the core layer;

said coupling elements are formed in one piece with the core layer and define tongue and groove interlocking elements;

a cut-away portion bevel adjacent said at least one of said two opposite edges, and intersecting said top side, said cut-away portion bevel penetrating and exposing an edge area of said panel decorative layer and said core layer when viewed from the top side of the panel; and

a decorative cut-away portion bevel covering layer on the area of the cut-away portion bevel masking said exposed edge area areas, said decorative cut-away portion bevel covering layer being a separate layer apart from said panel decorative layer.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

- 3. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein each bevel extends cut-away portion comprises a bevel extending at an angle of 45° in relation to the plane including the panel.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 3, wherein each bevel cut-away portion, in the plane of the respective panel, extends over a distance of about 2 millimeter.

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5. (Canceled)

- 6. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the coupling elements when coupled between ones of said panel, are disconnectable at least in one additional manner other than rotation relative to the coupled edges of the panels.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel is rectangular and said <u>cut-away portion</u> bevel is provided on all four sides of the panels.

Claims 8 - 9 (Canceled)

- 10. (Currently Amended) A floor covering panel comprising a laminated structure including an MDF or HDF core layer, said core layer including an upper core surface and at least two opposed core edges, a panel decorative layer above on the upper core surface, a cut-away portion bevel having a bevel area formed on at least one of said at least two edges and extending at least through the panel decorative layer, wherein said cut-away portion bevel area of each said bevel is also provided with a decorative cut-away portion covering bevel decorative layer separate from said panel decorative layer covering the core and decorative layers exposed by the cut-away portion bevel.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 10, wherein the <u>decorative cut-away portion covering bevel decorative</u> layer provided on each said <u>cut-away portion</u> bevel area comprises a print.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 11, wherein said print is a transfer <u>layer</u>.

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13. (Canceled)

- 14. (Previously Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 10, wherein the panel decorative layer of the top core surface comprises a paper layer printed with a pattern.
- 15. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 14, wherein the <u>decorative cut-away portion covering bevel decorative</u> layer represents a print on each <u>cut-away portion</u> bevel area, and wherein this print is provided with a pattern similar to the <u>pattern of the panel decorative layer</u>.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 10, wherein the <u>decorative cut-away portion covering</u> bevel decorating layer on each <u>cut-away portion</u> bevel is a moisture-proof, impermeable layer.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1 2, wherein each <u>cut-away portion</u> is a <u>bevel extending</u> bevel extends at an angle so that the plane including the bevel does not intersect the <u>any other portion</u> contour of the respective edge section of the panel at which the bevel is provided outside of the bevel area.
- 18. (Currently Amended) A floor covering panel <u>according to claim 1</u>, comprising a laminated hard construction having an MDF or HDF based core and a bottom side, wherein the panel is separately provided with an underlayer attached to the bottom side, said underlayer being polyethylene or polyethylene based material.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) The floor panel covering according to claim 1, wherein the panel has a minimum thickness of 9 mm.

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- 21. (Previously Amended) The floor covering panel according to claim 1, wherein the panel has a minimum thickness of 10 mm.
 - 22. (Canceled)